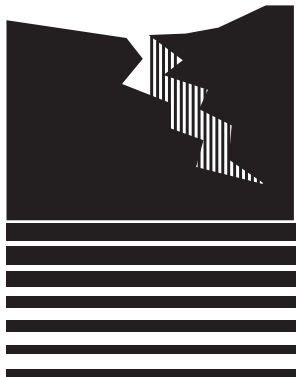


Preparing for Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Volcanoes



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WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT



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Preparing for Earthquakes

Washington is earthquake country.
When the ground starts to shake, “Drop, Cover and Hold”

Indoors:

- When you feel an earthquake, **DROP** and **COVER** under a desk or sturdy table. Stay away from windows, bookcases, file cabinets, heavy mirrors, hanging plants and other objects that could fall. **HOLD** onto the desk or table. If it moves, move with it. Do not run — stay where you are and “Drop, Cover and Hold.”

Kitchen:

- Move away from the refrigerator, stove, and overhead cabinets. **Drop, Cover and Hold** under a table or near an inside wall. Take time NOW to anchor appliances and install security latches on cabinet doors to reduce earthquake hazards.

Outdoors:

- If you are outdoors, move to a clear area, away from trees, signs, buildings, or downed electrical wires and poles.

Downtown Area:

- If you are on a sidewalk near a tall building, get into a building’s doorway or into the building’s lobby to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass and other debris.

Crowded Store or Public Place:

- DO NOT rush for the exits. Move away from display shelves holding objects that could fall on you, and **Drop, Cover and Hold**.

Driving:

- If you are driving, slowly pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, power lines, and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.

Wheelchair:

- If you are in a wheelchair, stay in it. Move to safe cover if possible (this is the one time you might use a doorway), lock your wheels, and protect your head with your arms.

Theater or Stadium:

- If you are in a theater or stadium, stay in your seat, protect your head with your arms or get under the seat if possible. Do not attempt to leave until the shaking stops.

After the Earthquake:

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Use the phone only to report a life threatening emergency.
- If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound — open a window or leave the building. Shut off the main gas valve outside.
- Try to make contact with your out-of-area phone contact and continue to monitor your radio.



Preparing for Tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of destructive ocean waves affecting shorelines. Tsunamis are usually generated by earthquakes. Tsunamis may also be caused by underwater landslides, or underwater volcanic eruptions. Tsunami waves are destructive and could rise as high as 100 feet or more. Tsunamis are a threat to the coast of Washington.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA has warning centers located in Hawaii and Alaska that can issue a tsunami warning within 15 minutes after an earthquake. This provides an effective warning for distant-source tsunamis.

A Tsunami "Watch"

A "Watch" reports on conditions that may generate a tsunami.

- Turn on your radio.
- Listen to your radio, NOAA Weather Radio, or TV for updates on the watch.
- Know well in advance what your safest evacuation route will be.

A Tsunami "Warning"

A "Warning" reports that a tsunami has been generated.

- Keep your radio on.
- Evacuate coastal areas immediately.
- Evacuate to higher ground or to upper levels of reinforced buildings.
- Continue to monitor your local radio or NOAA Weather Radio for further information and instructions.
- Wait for the "All Clear" before you return to the beach or to your home.

Coastal Evacuation Signs

- Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist coastal residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs have been placed along coastal roadways to indicate the direction inland or to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one direction available to reach safer areas. These routes may be marked with several signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

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Preparing for Volcanoes

Volcanoes generate a wide variety of phenomena that can alter the earth's surface and atmosphere endangering people and property.

Volcanic dangers include not only an eruption of a mountain and associated lava flows, but also ashfall and debris flows. If you are near a mountain range, be familiar with the following.

Before a volcanic eruption:

- Plan ahead. Have emergency supplies, food and water stored.
- Plan an evacuation route away from rivers or streams that may carry mud or debris flow.
- Keep a battery operated radio available at all times.
- If there is an eruption predicted, monitor the radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for evacuation information.
- Follow the advice given by the authorities.

After a volcanic eruption:

- Evacuate if advised to do so.
- Be prepared to stay indoors and avoid downwind areas if ashfall is predicted.
- Do not approach the eruption area.
- Be aware of stream and river channels when evacuating.
- Move toward higher ground if mudflows are approaching.

Be prepared for ashfall generated from volcanoes:

- Have dust masks available.
- Close doors, windows and dampers. Place damp towels at door thresholds and other draft sources.
- Put stoppers in tops of your drainpipes.
- Protect dust-sensitive electronics.

- Keep roofs free of ash in excess of 4 inches.
- Remove outdoor clothing before entering a building.
- Wash vegetables from the garden before eating.
- If ash is in the water, let it settle before drinking.
- Use a battery-operated radio to receive information.
- Keep children and pets indoors.
- Minimize travel — ash may be harmful to your vehicle.
- Frequently change oil and air filters in your automobile.

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